

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (New): A method for protecting an original audio signal against unauthorized recording thereof by a recorder, comprising:

combining the original audio signal with at least one inaudible disturbance signal for providing a combined signal,

said combining being such that the combined signal sounds undisturbed when played and a recording of the combined signal by said recorder is disturbed,

wherein the at least one inaudible disturbance signal includes a low-frequency disturbance signal which is added to the audio signal, the low-frequency disturbance signal preferably having a frequency of approximately 2 Hz.

Claim 23 (New): A method for protecting an original audio signal against unauthorized recording thereof by a recorder, comprising:

combining the original audio signal with at least one inaudible disturbance signal for providing a combined signal,

said combining being such that the combined signal sounds undisturbed when played and a recording of the combined signal by said recorder is disturbed,

wherein the at least one inaudible disturbance signal includes a high-frequency disturbance signal which is multiplied with the original audio signal, the high-frequency disturbance signal having a frequency of approximately 20 kHz, and

the original audio signal comprises a digital signal representation involving a sampling frequency, and wherein the high-frequency disturbance signal has a frequency

which varies in time, preferably from approximately half to approximately three quarters of the sampling frequency.

Claim 24 (New): A method for protecting an original audio signal against unauthorized recording thereof by a recorder, comprising:

combining the original audio signal with at least one inaudible disturbance signal for providing a combined signal,

said combining being such that the combined signal sounds undisturbed when played and a recording of the combined signal by said recorder is disturbed,

wherein the at least one inaudible disturbance signal includes a high-frequency disturbance signal which is multiplied with the original audio signal, the high-frequency disturbance signal having a frequency of approximately 20 kHz, and

the high-frequency disturbance signal is modulated by a modulating signal, said modulating signal comprises at least one of spoken messages, the original audio signal, and the inverted original audio signal.

Claim 25 (New): The method according to claim 24, wherein the high-frequency disturbance signal is frequency modulated by the modulating signal.

Claim 26 (New): The method according to claim 24, wherein the high-frequency disturbance signal is amplitude modulated by the modulating signal.

Claim 27 (New): A device for protecting an original audio signal against unauthorized recording thereof by a recorder, comprising:

signal generation means for generating at least one inaudible disturbance signal;

combining means for combining the original audio signal and the at least one disturbance signal and for providing a combined signal; and

output means for outputting said combined signal such that the combined signal sounds undisturbed when played and recording of the combined signal by said recorder is disturbed,

wherein the combining means comprise multiplication means.

Claim 28 (New): A device for protecting an original audio signal against unauthorized recording thereof by a recorder, comprising:

signal generation means for generating at least one inaudible disturbance signal;

combining means for combining the original audio signal and the at least one disturbance signal and for providing a combined signal; and

output means for outputting said combined signal such that the combined signal sounds undisturbed when played and recording of the combined signal by said recorder is disturbed,

wherein the signal generation means generates a low-frequency disturbance signal of the at least one inaudible disturbance signal which is added to the original audio signal, the low-frequency disturbance signal preferably having a frequency of approximately 2 Hz.

Claim 29 (New): A device for protecting an original audio signal against unauthorized recording thereof by a recorder, comprising:

signal generation means for generating at least one inaudible disturbance signal;

combining means for combining the original audio signal and the at least one disturbance signal and for providing a combined signal; and

output means for outputting said combined signal such that the combined signal sounds undisturbed when played and recording of the combined signal by said recorder is disturbed,

wherein the signal generation means generates a high-frequency disturbance signal of the at least one inaudible disturbance signal which is multiplied with the original audio signal, the high-frequency disturbance signal having a frequency of approximately 20 kHz.

Claim 30 (New): The device according to claim 29, wherein the original audio signal comprises a digital signal representation involving a sampling frequency, and wherein the signal generating means generates a high-frequency disturbance signal having a frequency which varies in time, preferably from approximately half to approximately three quarters of the sampling frequency.

Claim 31 (New): The device according to claim 29, wherein the combining means is configured for modulating the high-frequency disturbance signal by a modulating signal, said modulating signal comprises at least one of spoken messages, the original audio signal, and the inverted original audio signal.

Claim 32 (New): The device according to claim 29, wherein the combining means is configured for frequency modulating the high-frequency disturbance signal by the modulating signal.

Claim 33 (New): The device according to claim 29, wherein the combining means is configured for amplitude modulating the high-frequency disturbance signal by the modulating signal.

✓ Claim 34 (New): A method for protecting an original audio signal against unauthorized recording thereof by a recorder, comprising:

combining the original audio signal with at least one inaudible disturbance signal for providing a combined signal,

said combining being such that the combined signal sounds undisturbed when played and a recording of the combined signal by said recorder is disturbed, said at least one inaudible disturbance signal comprising a low-frequency disturbance signal,

wherein the low-frequency disturbance signal has a range of 1 Hz to 10 Hz.

✓ Claim 35 (New): A method for protecting an original audio signal against unauthorized recording thereof by a recorder, comprising:

combining the original audio signal with at least one inaudible disturbance signal for providing a combined signal,

said combining being such that the combined signal sounds undisturbed when played and a recording of the combined signal by said recorder is disturbed, said at least one inaudible disturbance signal comprising a low-frequency disturbance signal,

wherein the high-frequency disturbance signal has a frequency of about 20 kHz.